

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W

-----231435 012170 /43

O 231355Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3552

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1464

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT FREI REQUESTS DENIAL OF PRESS REPORTS THAT  
HE RECEIVED MONEY FROM CIA WHILE IN OFFICE

1. CHILEAN EX-PRESIDENT (1964-70) EDUARDO FREI MONTALVA,  
OUTSTANDING FIGURE IN CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY,  
HAS SENT ME A PERSONAL LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 21 REQUESTING ME  
TO OBTAIN FROM USG A DECLARATION RECTIFYING PRESS REPORTS  
THAT HE ACCEPTED CIA FUNDS WHILE PRESIDENT -- A CHARGE  
HE HAS PUBLICLY DENIED.

2. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF LETTER FOLLOWS.

3. QUOTE: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, IN ITS ISSUE OF FEBRUARY  
19, 1977 THE NEW YORK TIMES REPRODUCES STATEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS  
CONNECTED WITH THE CIA IN WHICH IT IS ASSERTED THAT WHILE I  
WAS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE PERIOD 1964-70, I HAD RECEIVED  
FROM THE CIA MONETARY PAYMENTS OF AN UNDISCLOSED SIZE.

4. QUOTE: SINCE AN AGENCY OF THE USG IS CITED IN THESE REPORTS,  
AND SINCE THEY INVOLVE A MATTER WHICH AFFECTS MY PERSONAL HONOR  
AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF CHILE, I AM  
DIRECTING MY SELF TO YOU, AND THROUGH YOU TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PRESIDENT.

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5. QUOTE: I HAVE FORMULATED A PUBLIC DECLARATION IN WHICH I HAVE  
DENIED THIS CALUMNY.

6. QUOTE: BUT THAT IS NOT SUFFICIENT, I BELIEVE I HAVE A RIGHT  
TO HAVE THIS SITUATION OFFICIALLY DENIED, AND I AM ASKING  
YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR, IN YOUR CAPACITY AS REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR

GOVERNMENT, TO OBTAIN FROM IT A DECLARATION IN THIS REGARD.

7. QUOTE: AS AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR, IT IS PUBLICLY AND WIDELY KNOWN THAT BOTH I AND THE POLITICAL PARTY TO WHICH I BELONG HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF EVERY METHOD OF EXPRESSION, WITH RADIO AND PERIODICALS CLOSED TO US; AND THAT ALL THESE REPORTS ARE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WHO CONTROL THE MEANS OF PUBLICITY FOR A SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN OF CALUMNIES AGAINST US.

8. QUOTE: PRESIDENT CARTER HAS AFFIRMED, AS A BASIC ELEMENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT, DEEP RESPECT FOR MORAL VALUES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. I INVOKE THIS ATTITUDE AND AFFIRMATION IN THE INTEREST OF CLARIFYING THIS SITUATION, WHICH IMPAIRS MY GOOD NAME AND MY HONOR AND AFFECTS MY COUNTRY, SINCE DURING THE PERIOD IN QUESTION I WAS ITS PRESIDENT. UNQUOTE.

9. I AM SENDING FREI A BRIEF NOE STATING THAT I AM FORWARDING THE TEXT OF HIS LETTER TO WASHINGTON AND WILL INFORM HIM SOONEST.

10. SANTIAGO PRESS FEBRUARY 23 INDICATES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER MAY DISCUSS GENERAL QUESTION OF REPORTED CIA PAYMENTS TO CHIEFS OF STATE, AT PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY. AS SOON AS WE HAVE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, I WILL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION AS TO A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO FREI.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** EX-PRESIDENT FREI REQUESTS DENIAL OF PRESS REPORTS THAT HE RECEIVED MONEY FROM CIA WHILE IN OFFICE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CI, CIA, (FREI MONTALVA, EDUARDO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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